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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 /080 W
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R 272130Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3991
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PEPR, SHUM, DR
SUB: INDIVIDIDUALS ARRESTED DURING SOARES VISIT ARE RELEASED

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1513,

1.NINETY-FOUR INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED IN FRACAS WHICH TOOK PLACE MARCH 18 DURING VISIT HERE OF PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES AND SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) DELEGATION (REFTEL) WERE ORDERED RELEASED BY THE GODR MARCH 23. ALL THE RELEASED PERSONS ARE REPORTEDLY MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD). ACCORDING TO POLICE, THEY ATTACKED LOCAL OFFICE OF THE CRUZADA DE AMOR, POLITICALLY ORIENTED SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION RUN BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S SISTER, AND INJURED THREE CRUZADA MEMBERS. INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AS PRD SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CARAVAN MOVED THROUGH ONE OF SANTO DOMINGO'S POORER NEIGHBOR-HOODS. PRD LEADERS CLAIMED THE CRUZADA ADHERENTS STARTED FIGHT.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, RELEASE TOOK PLACE AFTER THE PRD PROVIDED LIST OF ITS ARRESTED MEMBERS TO PRESIDENT
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BALAGUER. SANTO DOMINGO PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SAID HE HAD ORDERS FROM "SUPERIOR AUTHORITY" TO RELEASE THOSE ARRESTED. PRIOR TO RELEASE, PROSECUTOR HAD SOUGHT, AND COURTS SET BAIL AT, RD$100,000 FOR EACH OF THOSE HELD. THE RELEASE CAME JUST AS COUNTRY WAS ENTERING LONG EASTER WEEKEND AND WAS HAILED IN LOCAL PRESS AS A POSITIVE ACTION WHICH SHOULD

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HELP MAINTAIN PRESENT CALM PRE-ELECTORAL CLIMATE.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT CHIEF OF POLICE NIET NIVAR SEIJAS, IN A LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (JCE) RELEASED TO THE PRESS AND PUBLISHED MARCH 25, GAVE REASONS FOR POLICE RESTRICTIONS ON PRD-SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CARAVAN MARCH 18 AND PROHIBITION OF SECOND CARAVAN SCHEDULED FOR FOLLOWING
DAY TO VISIT SEVERAL CITIES IN COUNTRY'S NORTHERN REGION. LETTER WAS IN RESPONSE TO MARCH 22 INQUIRY BY JCE CHAIRMAN, WHO HAD RECEIVED OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FROM PRD ABOUT POLICE BEHAVIOR DURING SOARES' VISIT. NIVAR JUSTIFIED THE PROHIBITIONS SAYING THAT "THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC PROHIBITS COMPLETELY THE INTER-VENTION BY ANY PERSON OF FOREIGN NATIONALITY IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY."

4. ACCORDING TO NIVAR'S LETTER, SOARES HAD REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO PARTICIPATE IN CARAVAN OF MARC 18 DURING THEIR MEETING IN NATIONAL PALACE EVENING BEFORE, AND BALAGUER
HAD AGREED SO LONG AS THIS WOULD BE " SIMPLE VISIT TO THE BARRIOS OF THE CAPITAL." BALAGUER ALSO, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, "WARNED MR MARIO SOARES IN CATEGORICAL TERMS THAT HE, IN HIS CONDITION AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND IMPORTANT
MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, COULD NOT TAKE SIDES IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS NOW UNDERWAY..." LETTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOARES AGREED EMPHATICALLY WITH BALAGUER, SAYING IT WAS NIVER HIS INTENTION TO INTERFERE IN DOMINICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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5. "SURPRISINGLY," LETTER CONTINUED, "IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE FOLLOWING DAY MR MARIO SOARES, IGNORING HIS CONDITION AS PRIME MINISTER OF PORTUGAL WHO WAS ON A VISIT TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY, HEADED A CARAVAN OF THE DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY WHICH TRAVELED SEVERAL STREETS OF THE CAPITAL CITY, MAKING CATEGORICAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDACY OF THE DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AND IN FRANK OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT WHICH CONSTITUTIONALLY GOVERNS THE DESTINIES OF THE REPUBLIC..."

6. NIVAR'S LETTER EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST PARTICIPATION BY FOREIGN INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS IN DOMINICAN POLITICS, POLICE DID NOT PERMIT A SECOND CARAVAN TO TRAVEL TO CITIES IN COUNTRY'S NORTHERN REGION. LETTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY VIDEO TAPES OF SPEECHES BY SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS IN "ENCOUNTER" WITH PRD EVENING OF MARCH 18 WHICH NIVAR CALLED "INCENDIARY HARANGUES WHICH FRANKLY INSULTED THE INSTITUTIONS OF OUR COUNTRY AND ITS

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LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES..."

7. COMMENT. FREEING OF ALMOST ONE HUNDRED PRD ACTIVISTS ARRESTED DURING MARCH 18 CARAVAN APPEARS TO CLEAR THE AIR OF MOST UNFORTUNATE ASPECTS OF SOARES/SI VISIT. NIVAR'S RATIONALE FOR THE RESTRICTIONS ON PRO-PRD ACTIVITIES ON PART OF SI DELEGATION INDICATES PITFALLS HERE OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ONGOING ELECTORAL PROCESS.
HURWITCH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780133-0419
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805108/aaaafftp.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 5db9a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTO DOMINGO 1513
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970812
Subject: INDIVIDIDUALS ARRESTED DURING SOARES VISIT ARE RELEASED
TAGS: PGOV, DR, PEPR, PINT, SHUM
To: STATE
Type: TE
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